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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Chen *et al.*

Application No.: 09/204,865

Group Art Unit: 1655

Filed: December 3, 1998

Examiner: F. Lu

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS  
FOR FLOW-THROUGH  
HYBRIDIZATION

Attorney Docket No.: 9584-006-999

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants have carefully considered the final Office Action mailed February 1, 2001, in connection with the above-captioned Application. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and remarks that follow is respectfully respected. Filed herewith are Exhibit A ("Marked up Version of Amended Claims"), Exhibit B ("Pending Claims after Entry of Instant Amendment"), a Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for Extension of Time extending the period for responding by five months to and including March 1, 2001.

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Marked up copies of the following amended claims are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Please amend Claims 1, 50, 52 and 58-60 to read as follows:

1. (Three times amended) A flow-through device for capturing a target nucleic acid comprising a three-dimensional porous substrate composed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polystyrene, polycarbonate and polypropylene and